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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**MISSISSIPPI STATE PERSONNEL BOARD APPROVES REQUEST FROM
MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR REORGANIZATION AND REDUCTION-IN-FORCE**

Jackson, Miss. (May 18, 2017) – The Mississippi State Personnel Board today approved a request from the Mississippi Forestry Commission for a reorganization and reduction-in-force affecting 118 filled positions. The reorganization and reduction-in-force affect positions within portions of the agency's Fire Protection Sections, Forest Management Sections, and administrative staff.

Due to a shortage of funds, the agency is consolidating seven district offices into four regional offices, resulting in the closing of six district offices and 37 county offices with all employees impacted. The impacted counties include Adams, Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Chickasaw, Claiborne, Coahoma, Desoto, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Humphreys, Issaquena, Itawamba, Jasper, Jones, Kemper, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lee, Madison, Montgomery, Newton, Oktibbeha, Pike, Pontotoc, Quitman, Rankin, Sharkey, Stone, Sunflower, Tate, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yalobusha.

"The Mississippi State Personnel Board evaluated the request from the Mississippi Forestry Commission and determined that the agency followed the proper policies and procedures for implementing their action plan predicated by a shortage of funds," said Kelly Hardwick, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

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